

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 13, 15 to 34, and 36 to 48 remain pending.

Claims 14, 35 and 49 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,058,976 to DiGiovanni.

The rejection of claims 14, 35 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is moot since they have been canceled.

Claims 6, 20 and 41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the description requirement.

The statement of rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 appears to be in error in referring to the first paragraph rather than the second paragraph. Later in the Action (claim allowance), the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 is referred to as being made under the second paragraph. Thus, the statement of rejection appears to have a typographical error. Since rejections under the description requirement are properly made under the second paragraph, Applicants will treat the rejection as if it were made under the second paragraph.

The rejection of claims 6, 20 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first (second) paragraph, is traversed in view of the amendments to those claims. Claims 6, 20, and 41 have been amended such that they unambiguously refer to step (g) of independent claims 1, 15, and 36, respectively. Basis is seen in the specification at page 11, substep (g). Moreover, Applicants have amended claims 24, 25 and 45 to overcome any antecedent basis objections raised by the current office action.

The Action states that claims 6, 20, 24, 25, 41 and 45 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

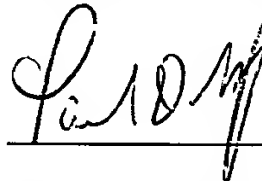
Claims 6, 20, 24, 25, 41 and 45 are deemed allowable in view of the above traversal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The Action states that Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 13, 15 to 19, 21 to 23, 26 to 34, 36 to 40, 42 to 44 and 46 to 48 are allowed.

Reconsideration of claims 1 to 13, 15 to 34, and 36 to 48 is deemed warranted in view of the foregoing, and allowance of said claims is earnestly solicited.

Dated: December 22, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Greeley", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul D. Greeley, Esq.
Reg. No. 31,019
Attorney for Applicants
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero
& Perle, L.L.P.
One Landmark Square
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
Tel: 203-327-4500